

SENATE RESOLUTION 5  
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize Larry Stephens for his meritorious service as Coach of the Powell High School football team.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those educators who in their years of work have distinguished themselves as community leaders who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Coach Larry Stephens, who recently resigned as Head Coach of the Powell High School football team, after having led the Panthers to notable prominence; and

WHEREAS, Coach Stephens served with distinction for two years as the Powell Panthers' Head Coach and a commendable seven years as an Assistant Coach prior to that; and

WHEREAS, Coach Larry Stephens resigned from the successful football program in which he guided the Panthers to an 8-4 won-loss record in 2003 and a third-place finish in the always tough Region 3-4A. Two of those losses were to the eventual Class 4A State Champion, including a 21-16 defeat in the playoffs in which Powell played a spectacular game; and

WHEREAS, Coach Stephens is an active and important part of the Powell community as well as his profession; he serves as a County Commissioner and represents the 6<sup>th</sup> District, which includes Powell; and

WHEREAS, Powell High School's administration recognizes how difficult it will be to replace the extraordinary coaching ability of Coach Stephens and to find someone who melds as well with the tenured staff at Powell High School as he did; and

WHEREAS, the school has no choice but to begin immediately the search for a new football coach, but the Athletic Director was quoted as saying, "We were . . . surprised by [Coach Stephens'] decision. If he changed his mind, we'd take him back in a heartbeat"; and

WHEREAS, despite facing outstanding competition in Region 3-4A, Coach Stephens' noteworthy record with the Panthers was 12-11 in two seasons; and

WHEREAS, the enjoyment of coaching has not escaped Coach Stephens, and he hopes to return to this fulfilling profession in the future; however, he felt now was the right time to resign and focus on other things in his life; and

WHEREAS, despite a highly successful and demanding career, Larry Stephens has remained committed to the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he has served the people of Powell with distinction, not only as a coach and teacher, but also as a community leader, mentor, neighbor, and friend; and

WHEREAS, throughout Coach Stephens' estimable career, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and his students and players; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Coach Larry Stephens for his meritorious service to Knox County as a Coach for Powell High School's football team and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.